

Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR, HA

SUBJECT: AVIATION: NEW PRESSURE FOR RECOGNITION OF HAITI AIR
TRANSPORT

1. OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER LE NOUVEAU MONDE ON JUNE 20 CARRIED AGENCY
FRANCE PRESS ARTICLE HEADLINED "CREATION OF A NATIONAL HAITIAN
AVIATION COMPANY". ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE HAITIAN
NATIONAL AIRLINES, HAITI AIR TRANSPORT, WILL BEGIN DOMESTIC
OPERATIONS ON JULY 1 UNDER THE NAME OF HAITI AIR INTER AND WILL
THUS END THE "DE FACTO MONOPOLY" PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED BY THE
ENGLISH-AMERICAN COMPANY TURKS AND CAICOS AIRLINES. ARTICLE
ALSO NOTED THAT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK AND PARIS
BY THE COMPANY, UNDER THE NAME OF HAITI AIR INTERNATIONAL, SHOULD
BEGIN SOON, SINCE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY ACCORDED
LANDING RIGHTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI IN RECIPROCITY FOR
THE LANDING RIGHTS GRANTED BY HAITI TO AIR FRANCE.

2. ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY: QUOTE THE AMERICAN CIVIL AVIATION
BOARD (CAB) HAS NOT YET GRANTED HAITI THE RIGHT FOR ITS NATIONAL
AIRLINE TO LAND AT NEW YORK. THESE ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS --
THE HAITIAN REQUEST WAS PRESENTED ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO -- SEEM
DUE IN PART TO THE FACT THAT UNTIL NOW THE HAITIAN NATIONAL COMPANY
HAS EXISTED ONLY ON PAPER. THE START OF OPERATIONS BY THE DOMESTIC
LINE OF THE CARIBBEAN REPUBLIC WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FROM
NOW ON TO JUSTIFY "DELAYS" OF THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION
IN THE FACE OF THE HAITIAN REQUEST FOR LANDING RIGHTS IN NEW
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YORK AND SHOULD PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT OF PORT-AU-PRINCE NOT ONLY

TO REALIZE A PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL OPERATION, BUT ALSO A VERY PROFITABLE BUSINESS. THE COMPANY AMERICAN AIRLINES WHICH EACH YEAR EARNS RECEIPTS OF \$7 MILLION THANKS TO ITS ACTUAL MONOPOLY BETWEEN PORT-AU-PRINCE AND NEW YORK WILL HAVE TO DIVIDE THE HAITIAN MARKET WITH THE NEW ANTILLEAN COMPANY. UNQUOTE

3. SINCE DECEMBER 1974, TURKS AND CAICOS AIRWAYS (TCA) HAS ACTED AS MANAGER OF HAITI AIR INTER, USING TCA PLANES REPAINTED WITH HAITIAN NAME. OPERATION WAS CARRIED ON UNDER LETTER OF INTENT SIGNED, AT PRESIDENT'S ORDER, BY EX/COMMERCE SECRETARY FOURCAND AND THE PRESIDENT OF TCA. EVER SINCE, TCA REPS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ARRANGE SIGNATURE OF FINAL MANAGEMENT CONTRACT BUT WERE UNABLE TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW WITH NEW SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MURAT UNTIL JUNE 18. AT THAT TIME, MURAT CLAIMED IGNORANCE OF FULL BACKGROUND BUT PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE AND TO INFORM COMPANY DURING WEEK OF JUNE 23 WHETHER TCA WOULD BE GIVEN A MANAGEMENT CONTRACT OR WHETHER HAITI AIR INTER WOULD BE OPERATED BY HAITIANS. THE APPEARANCE OF THE AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE ARTICLE MAY BE EITHER PLOY BY OPPONENTS OF TCA TO FORCE MURAT'S HAND OR ORIGINATED BY MURAT WITH INTENT TO USE IT AS EVIDENCE THAT HIS HAND WAS FORCED BY OTHERS. ONLY ANNOUNCEMENT SO FAR IS ONE ISSUED BY HAITI AIR TRANSPORT.

4. IF ARTICLE IS CONFIRMED BY FOLLOW-UP OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, LIKELIHOOD IS THAT FRENCH HAVE REGAINED THEIR INFLUENCE ON HAITIAN AVIATION MATTERS, THAT THERE WILL BE NEW PRESSURE ON U.S. TO GRANT HAT LANDING RIGHTS, AND THAT THERE WILL BE A MOVEMENT TO CANCEL PAN AMERICAN'S NEW CONTRACT TO OPERATE AIRPORT AT FIRST AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY.
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